



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Washington, D.C. 20240

<http://www.blm.gov>



April 25, 2019

In Reply Refer To:
1278-FOIA (640)
FOIA# 2018-00847

Jimmy Tobias
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 54210
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Tobias:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated May 21, 2018, and received in our office on the same day. The tracking number is 2018-00847. In your letter, you asked for the following:

“any documents and written or electronic communications, including attachments, that were sent or received by former BLM communications director Michael Allen and that pertain to the agency's decision to begin sending FOIA requests to political appointees before releasing the results to the public.”

After a thorough search of our files, we have determined that the Washington Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has no records responsive to your request.

Ryan Witt, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) FOIA Officer, is responsible for this no record response.

You may appeal this no records response to the Department of the Interior's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive all documentation listed below no later than 90 workdays from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All

communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Send your appeal and accompanying materials to:

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (202) 208-5339
Fax: (202) 208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

You must include an explanation of why you believe the BLM's response is in error. Please include your name, daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address, and fax number (if available). Your contact information is required in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification. You must include copies of all correspondence between you and the BLM concerning your FOIA request, including the original FOIA request and the BLM's response. You also may seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison, Ryan Witt at (202) 912-7562.

Additionally, as part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Facsimile: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of

the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Michelle Reid, BLM WO FOIA Specialist, at (202) 912-7650 or via email at BLM_WO_FOIA@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan Witt, Chief
Division of Intergovernmental and
External Affairs